

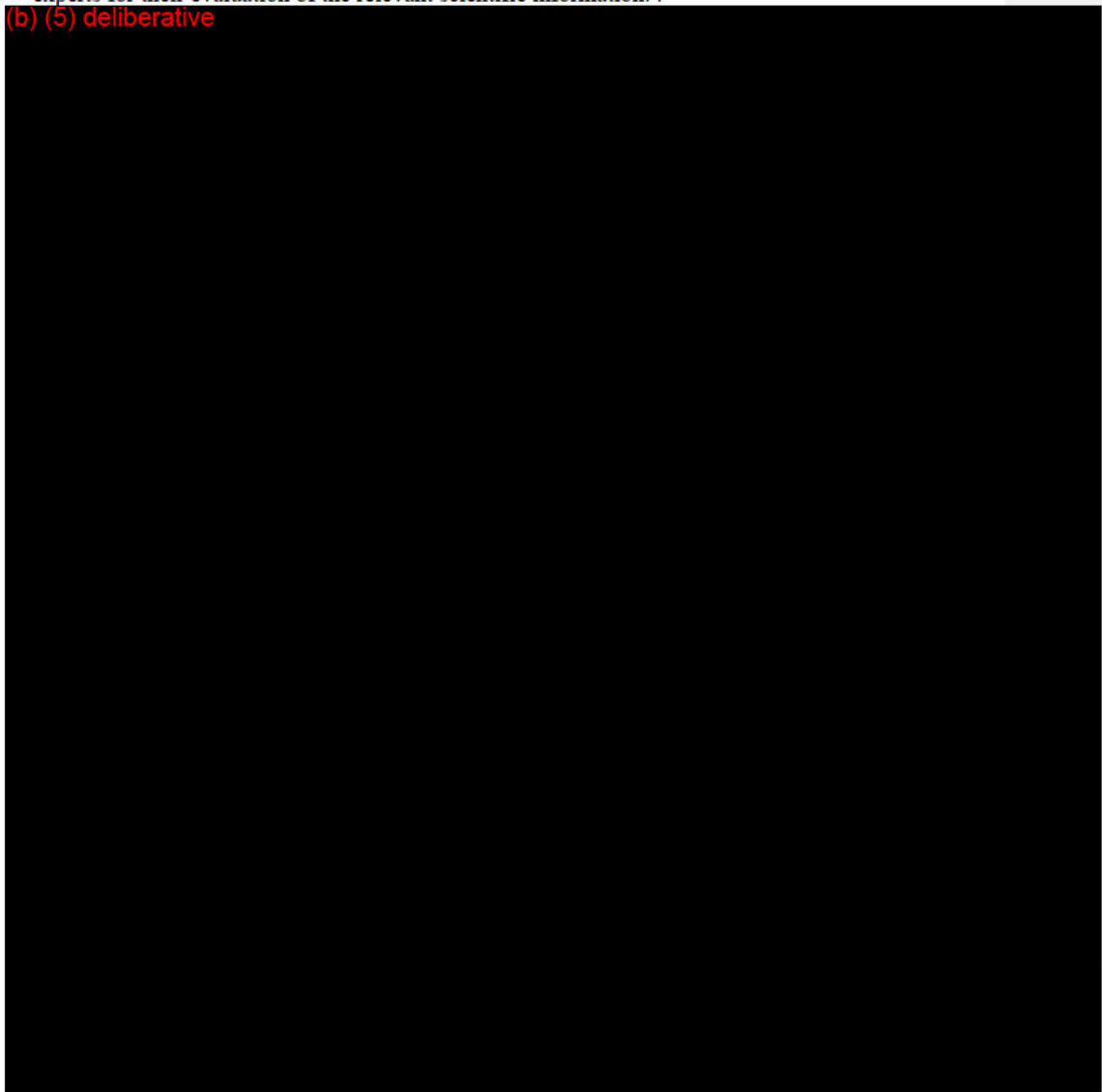
Mr. John C. Hall  
Hall and Associates  
Suite 701  
1620 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-4033

Re: Great Bay Municipal Coalition Letter to EPA Alleging Scientific Misconduct and  
Agency Bias and Requesting Transfer of Matter to Independent Panel of Experts

Dear Mr. Hall:

I am writing in response to your May 4, 2012, letter requesting that further review of Great Bay Estuary matters be withdrawn from Region 1 and transferred to an independent panel of experts for their evaluation of the relevant scientific information. .

(b) (5) deliberative



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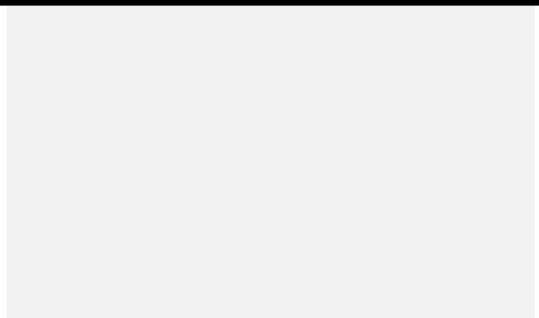


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OMB's "Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review" (Dec 16, 2004) says,

Peer review involves the review of a draft product for quality by specialists in the field who were not involved in producing the draft. The peer reviewer's report is an evaluation or critique that is used by the authors of the draft to improve the product. Peer review typically evaluates the clarity of hypotheses, the validity of the research design, the quality of data collection procedures, the robustness of the methods employed, the appropriateness of the methods for the



hypotheses being tested, the extent to which the conclusions follow from the analysis, and the strengths and limitations of the overall product.

(b) (5) deliberative

